

8/29/91

Dear Lasse,

As by now you know I sent copies of our previous correspondence to my friend Dave Wrone. He sent me a copy of his letter to you of the 21st.

I hope what he sent is helpful

If I did not mention it, Olaf Seidenfaden's mother was Thai. Olaf insisted, even in the presence of his wife and mine, that Thai women were the world's most beautiful.

The only relative I remember his mentioning was the Copenhagen chief of police, of whom he was proud because of his part in the rescue of Denmark's Jews.

Your letter makes me think and it is true that I have always lived in areas famous in our history. I was born in Philadelphia and as a boy used to walk around Independence Hall, famous in the Revolutionary War and that era, and even in and around the small but preserved home of William Penn, after whom the State of Pennsylvania was named. The Porups lived with a few miles of my then home in Wilmington, Delaware, and when Washington stayed in the home in which they then lived it was at the time of the Battle of the Brandywine, the name of a river that continues into the Delaware River, thence goes to the sea. Both of the cities of my youth were prominent in the early history of this country. Delaware used to call itself, rather Wilmington did, The First City of the First State. This was because Caesar Rodney rode posthaste to Philadelphia to become the first signatory of the Constitution. A square in the center of Wilmington held a statue of him on his horse. The trip was about 30 miles by paved roads in my youth so when he rode cross-country it must have been longer. As I remember his passion and that of the state was such he rode nonstop for the signing. Frederick was famous in our Civil War. In losing a battle here the Union forces delayed the Confederates long enough to save the city of Washington. Several important battlefields not far a way, from a few miles to 30-40, where the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg was fought. In the heart of the city of Frederick and now used as one of the buildings for a school for the deaf and dumb is what has long been known as The Hessian Barracks. The British garrisoned Hessian mercenaries there. During the Civil War, when the rebels were marching on Washington from the west, General Jubal Early captured Frederick and held the city for ransom. He said he would rape all the women and steal all the wealth if he were not paid that ransom. The city fathers had to borrow what for those days was a great sum from the banks. It was only in recent years that a law was passed to end the regular annual payments on that debt and interest on it. Even Barbara Fritchey's house is preserved and is in perfect condition, if you know the poem. (It is, by the way, fiction.) She is said to have leaned out the second storey window, her hand on the flagpole, and to have said, "Shoot if you must this old gray head, but touch not my country's flag, she said." Poem's words. Yes, for so young a country, much history. Our favorite restaurant, Korean, is only a few doors from her home, solid brick but tiny by today's standards. Best wishes,

Harry